CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for managing a supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:

2   a)   receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network, the

3   data relating to the sale of products by the outlets;

4   b)   generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering products from a

5   distributor of the supply chain; and

6   c)   providing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface equipped to

7   handle secure sockets layer (SSL) protocol.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the access is provided only after verification of a

2   password and a user name.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the network-based interface is capable of timing

2   out after a predetermined amount of time.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the data and electronic order form is encrypted.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the outlets, the distributor, and a supplier each

2   are provided access to the network-based interface.

1   7.   A system for managing a supply chain utilizing a network, comprising:

2   a)   logic for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a

3   network, the data relating to the sale of products by the outlets;

4   b)   logic for generating an electronic order form based on the data for ordering

5   products from a distributor of the supply chain; and

6   c)   logic for providing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface equipped

7   to handle secure sockets layer (SSL) protocol.

1   8.   The system of claim 7, wherein the access is provided only after verification of a

2   password and a user name.

1   9.   The system of claim 7, wherein the network-based interface is capable of timing

2   out after a predetermined amount of time.

1   10.   The system of claim 7, wherein the data and electronic order form is encrypted.

1   11.   The system of claim 7, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1   12.   The system of claim 7, wherein the outlets, the distributor, and a supplier each are

2   provided access to the network-based interface.

1   13.   A computer program product for managing a supply chain utilizing a network,

2   comprising:

3   a)   computer code for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain

4   utilizing a network, the data relating to the sale of products by the outlets;

5   b)   computer code for generating an electronic order form based on the data for

6   ordering products from a distributor of the supply chain; and

7   c)   computer code for providing access to the data utilizing a network-based interface

8   equipped to handle secure sockets layer (SSL) protocol.

1   14.   The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the access is provided only

2   after verification of a password and a user name.

1   15.   The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network-based interface

2   is capable of timing out after a predetermined amount of time.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the data and electronic order

2   form is encrypted.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the network includes the

2   Internet.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the outlets, the distributor,

2   and a supplier each are provided access to the network-based interface.